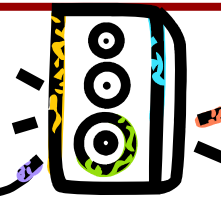




# Disciples Women's Voices



Volume 3  
Issue 4  
November 2009

## Thank You from Adonna Bowman

### Inside this issue:

*Thank you*— two little words that rank up there with the most important words in our vocabulary. This issue of *Voices* highlights just some of the reasons for the church to say Thank You to Disciples Women. From your incredible stewardship of time and talent to the difference you make in your churches, communities and around the world, your love for God and the action that inspires are what makes you the saints of today and the kingdom makers for tomorrow.

But on a personal level (and the editors did ask me to write this so I'm going to take some personal privilege here), saying thank you to Disciples Women holds a very deep meaning for me in this very moment. As my retirement and the end of my time as your paid Executive Director for the Office of Disciples Women draws close, my feelings of gratitude for the privilege of serving with and for you are a constant presence. It feels strange to even be thinking about retirement, especially since I'll still be doing the major pieces of our ministry throughout next year as a volunteer, and yet the reality is December 31<sup>st</sup> marks a milestone in my life. And milestones bring with them times of reflection and memories. So here are some of mine – in no particular order.

Being warmly and lovingly welcomed into a new role by women who were wiser than I, had lived through heartbreak and turmoil in their beloved ministry, and yet who graciously opened their arms in unconditional love and hospitality to me. Thank you, beloved staff fellowship, cabinet and Disciples Women everywhere.

Awakening to God's glory in retreat cen-

ters around the country and in Canada and having the privilege to see first-hand the incredible gifts of Disciples Women.

Journeying to Colombia, China, Korea and Bosnia and seeing life through the eyes of women who may not have material riches, but whose faith and love of God both humbles and inspires me every day of my life.

Receiving encouragement and pastoral wisdom from the most amazing Disciples clergy women. You know who you are and I can only say thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Seeing new resources birthed (*Just Women*), old ones take new shape (*Leadership Manual*, *website*) and women's lives transformed through mission and service opportunities (Woman-to-Woman, Young Women's Action Web) and the always incredible Quadrennial Assembly.

And the best for last – getting to meet and personally know so many of you and being loved and supported by you through these past seven years. Your friendships and these memories are woven into a rich tapestry that greets me every day and adds richness and color to my life. You have blessed me far more than words can express.

*Thank you, Disciples Women.*

Editor's Note:

As a thank you for enduring wisdom, we are reprinting an article written by Marilyn Moffett, former QA coordinator and ICWF President. It is still as applicable today as it was in 1989 when it was written. Please turn to our bonus page 7 for the reprint.

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### It's Gd 2 B Grn

Would you like to know what to do with all the denim jeans, etc. that you no longer need or wear? How about turning them into environmentally safe insulation made from natural cotton fibers and used to rebuild homes in distressed communities? Find the details and locations at

[www.cottonfrombluetogreen.org](http://www.cottonfrombluetogreen.org)





## Women's Endowment Fund (WEF)

The Women's Endowment Fund was established in 1990 to provide an opportunity to contribute to a permanent fund that benefits the work, both now and in the future, of women in the church. Funds are invested through the Christian Church Foundation to keep pace with inflation and to produce a steady stream of income for spending. Only the interest on the investments is used to support grant requests, and first priority is given to ministry which benefits the entire women's network.

### Why Have a Women's Endowment Fund?

Women of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have always been very active, committed and ready to provide excellent leadership. Now more than ever the important component of women's efforts in the church are:

- Leadership training
- Outreach ministries
- Faith development

The Women's Endowment Fund was created to provide for the needs of programs for women, and to offer a legacy beyond one's lifetime. Planning a specific gift for the Women's Endowment Fund (WEF) will help provide funds for programming of vital importance to women now--and in the future.

### Who Administers the Fund?

The Women's Endowment Fund is a permanent fund of the Christian Church Foundation. Distributions are allocated by a rotating committee including representatives from International Christian Women's Fellowship and Office of Disciples Women. A professional audit is made annually and a written report provided to the related women's organizations, and others upon request.

### How Can You Support the Women's Endowment Fund?

- Include it in your will. Designate a percentage or a dollar amount.
- Create a planned gift. The Christian Church Foundation, one of the general units of the church, has numerous gift opportunities available that not only benefit the donor's wishes, but also can create a source of income for the donor. Call (800) 668-8016.
- Establish a named fund (\$1000 minimum).
- Make an outright gift.
- Designate Women's Endowment Fund as beneficiary of insurance / IRAs.
- Transfer stock.
- Encourage others to include WEF in their estate planning.

- Gift Annuities
- Charitable Trusts

### Questions:

Contact Christian Church Foundation  
Toll Free (800) 668-8016 or  
MFiddmon@ccf.disciples.org

### Women's Endowment Fund Guidelines

#### Funding Categories:

**Leadership Training**—To provide educational opportunities which teach women the skills needed to become leaders in the church and strengthen their leadership abilities in order to serve others in their communities and beyond.

**Scholarship Support**—To assist women's participation in opportunities which strengthen their faith, faith development, leadership training and educational opportunities through scholarship assistance.

**Outreach Ministries**—To provide opportunities for ministry which serve locally and globally (e.g., justice, healing and peace issues).

**Faith Development**—To provide spiritual growth opportunities for individuals and groups. Could include retreats, spiritual direction, auditing courses, or mission trips/ experiences.

**Women's Programming**—To assure that new and vital ministry continues to be developed and offered to the women of the church.

#### Guidelines for Grants:

**Seminarians**—A maximum of one-third (1/3) of the total cost for a scholarship, event or mission trip will be considered.

**Women's Action Web and Woman-to-Woman Worldwide**—A maximum of one-third (1/3) of the total program cost will be considered for regions/constituencies who have participated in the program previously. A maximum of two-thirds (2/3) of the total program cost will be considered for regions/constituencies who are first time participants.

#### Application Deadlines - March 15 and October 15:

March 15th applications will be notified of approval or rejection by May 1. October 1st applications will be notified of approval or rejection by December 1.

**Amount of Grants:** Grant requests are not to exceed \$5,000. There is no minimum.



## Thank You, Gracias, Merci, 감사 합니다 by Disciples Women



There are so many things that make me stop and say thank you. Just a few -- Early morning dew on a rose with the sun shining on it, a child's giggles, or deer romping through the woods. Then there are bigger ones like a 16-year old grandson having a car accident on I-465, totaling the car, but no injuries! Friends who are constantly uplifting, the support of Christian Women through out the world. Right now all the prayers for the W.W.W. adventure. These are just a few. We have so many blessings - we just need to stop and say thank you a lot more often than we do. Carol from Indiana

I'm thankful that God has blessed me with a good husband and wonderful son. Also, good health and all of God's benefits that are available to me every day. Freda from Texas

I am thankful each day when I wake in the morning. I am thankful for my health. I am thankful for peace of mind. I am thankful that I have more days of happiness than of sadness. I am thankful that God loves me a sinner who sometimes does stupid things. I am thankful that God loves me enough to use me to do his will. I am thankful that God loves me enough when I tell him my plans He shows me a better plan and doesn't laugh too hard. I am thankful that God loves me enough to show me and give me opportunities that I would never even dreamt of. I am thankful that God loves me enough to put the assurance in my soul that no matter what happens in this life that God's got my back and I have nothing to fear even unto death. LaVerne from Arizona

Thank you for including me in the Email Newsletter list. I always appreciate hearing about things going on in the life of Disciple Women and rarely have an opportunity to connect. The church with which I am most involved is UCC and Presbyterian which means their women's programming is a different creature altogether and I don't have a chance to connect with Disciple friends very often. It sounds like there are many good things going on and for that I'm glad. I look forward to hearing about the ongoing life of Disciples Women. Norma

I just read the new issue of our "Disciples Women's Voices", and want to add a thank you. Among the many times I find myself saying "Thank You", one of my

favorites is when I thank the people of my church, Westview Christian in Indianapolis, for their wonderful response to the monthly service projects sponsored by our Westview Christian Women. These are supported by the whole congregation, not just those active in our group. Sue from Indiana

November is the month where people are focusing on Thanksgiving. As a Disciple Woman I am focused on being thankful every day. My daughter had a special needs child on April 2, 2002, who was born with various physical and mental problems. When she left the hospital May 30, 2002, the doctors at the University of Kentucky Children Hospital advised if she had to come back to the hospital she would not make it out. There have been times when we did not think she would make it, but all I can say is "Thank You" as GOD stepped in and brought her out. Imani is seven years old, and thru the grace of GOD she is still alive and doing well. I am thankful just to see her every day and thank the goodness of GOD for bringing her this far. She was not able to even smile until she was almost three years old. When I look at her I see the simple things in life that we take for granted such as a smile or a voice to say HI. During this thanksgiving season and every day think of the simple things and give God the Glory and the Praise for all the things that he has done for you and others and is about to do. Deborah from Kentucky

I am thankful for many small courtesies of life: anyone who holds a door open for me to pass through (the doors seem to be getting heavier); empties the trash, offers to carry something heavy, drives me to an appointment; or shares a homemade treat. Billie from Texas

I feel like saying thank you, and am so grateful, when someone truly listens to what I have to say. Good eye contact, open body language, lots of nods and facial expression, and silence! shows me that I am being listened to with respect and attentiveness. I feel appreciation, and want to show that and share it. Whether I am understood, agreed with, or am making an impact, is so irrelevant. Being heard is the ultimate way human beings can connect, relate, bond. I am so appreciative of the other person, and the relationship we share, whenever it happens! Diane from California

Women who discover God's power in the deep recesses of their beings and then use it to birth justice and imagine a world where God's life-giving presence breaks in to transform struggle in to hope causes me to dance with joy and give thanks. Mary from Arizona.



## Blessing Boxes

The Blessing Box is, first and foremost, a Spiritual Discipline. It is a tool to help us focus each and every day on how God is blessing us. It is the over-and-above way to help fund the wider mission of the church. How has God blessed you today?

The history of women's systematic and sacrificial giving to support their dreams and visions for mission and education began as one of the first projects of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions in the 1880s. It started as the Mite Box, then changed to Love Gifts, then the Thank Offering Box, and then the current day Blessing Box. Since their introduction, Blessing Boxes-by any name-have been kept in the homes and offices of women across the church to enable them to express their gratitude for everyday blessings.

Since 1999, Blessing Boxes have contributed a total of \$2,663,882 for the mission of the church, with \$311,814 of that going to support women's ministries. This makes a significant difference in the witness provided by Disciples Women.

### Has the Blessing Box made a difference?

Yes! Yes! Yes! In addition to cultivating life-long habits of thanksgiving, Blessing Boxes have generated millions of dollars in mission support. Since 2007, 50 percent of all Blessing Box giving goes to support the mission of the whole church. The other half goes to fund the ministries carried out by Disciples Women through the International Disciples Women's Ministries. Your blessings make a significant difference in the mission of the church at home and abroad.

### How do my gifts support Disciples Women?

- ✓ Leadership trainings for regional and constituency representatives;
- ✓ Creation of leadership and study materials;
- ✓ Staff to plan and coordinate Quadrennial Assemblies;
- ✓ Publication of *Just Women* magazine introduced in 2009;

- ✓ Participation and leadership by IDWM officers and ODW staff at women's retreats around the country;
- ✓ Support of New Church Starts in developing women's ministries;
- ✓ Participation by additional ethnic constituency representatives at Cabinet and Staff Fellowship; and
- ✓ Development of materials and resources in support of social advocacy.

### I want to participate. How do I get started?

Order Blessings Boxes from Christian Board of Publication, (800) 366-3383

### What should I do when my Blessing Box is filled?

Rejoice! Your blessings are many! If you are part of a congregation or women's group that is using Blessing Boxes, there will probably be a gathering and dedication date at some point during the year. At that time, convert your coins to a check, and turn it in. Your church or group will then send one check to the Disciples Mission Fund with the church's regular reporting. If you are not part of a group and would like to make a donation, you may do so online at [www.discipleswomen.org](http://www.discipleswomen.org) and click on the Blessing Box icon to donate by credit card. If you prefer to send a check, please make it payable to Disciples Mission Fund, note Blessing Box in the memo line, include your congregations name and city, and mail to OGPM-Treasury Services, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986

### How am I blessed?

Throughout this news letter Disciples women have shared how they are blessed, why they say Thank You in various languages and for various reasons. Each reason is worthy of a donation in a Blessing Box. What is your reason? Did someone hold a door open for you? Is the sun shining? Is the rain kissing your garden? Did you see God in the face of someone you passed today? Did God say "Bless you my child. I love you today and every day"? Clink! Clink! Clink!

## CONGRATULATIONS:

During the 2009 General Assembly in Indianapolis this summer North American Pacific Asian Disciples (NAPAD) celebrated their 30th anniversary. As part of the celebration Founding Members were honored. Founding Mothers of NAPAD include JoAnne Kagiwada (California), Luz Bacerra (Florida), and Janet Casey-Allen (Indiana). All three women are wonderful leadership role models for women.



## Thank you cont'd from page 3

I am thankful that God gave me good health so that I can work every day.

I am also thankful that God gave me opportunities to serve at choirs at my church and thankful that I have church people that I love and they loves me.

I have confidence in my life because God is walking with me every day. When I look back in to my life, I don't know how I came through this much, but I know one thing, God helped me and gave me strength to pass through.

Thanks to Disciples Women invited me to say "Thanks God". Jeannie from Indiana

날마다 일할 수 있도록 건강을 주심을 하나님께 감사 드립니다. 그리고 교회에서 성가대로 하나님을 섬길 수 있게 해 주심을 감사 드립니다.

또한 교회 성도님들을 만날 수 있게 해 주심을 감사드립니다. 날마다 하나님께서 함께 하시고 도와 주시어 제가 자신감 있는 삶을 살 수 있게 해 주심을 감사드립니다.

제가 살아온 삶을 돌아볼때 어떻게 여기까지 왔는지 모릅니다. 그러나 한가지 뚜렷하게 알고 있는것은 하나님께서 도와주시고 힘을 주셨기에 여기까지 올 수 있었다고 믿고 감사 드립니다.

여성 제자회 에서 이런 기회를 저에게 주어 하나님께 감사의 말을 전할 수 있게 해 주심을 감사 드립니다.

Ya se siente la brisa fresca de otoño y donde yo vivo esas brisas se han sentido a 35 -45 grados. Me encanta sentir el viento fresco... Este año es muy especial para mí y estoy

agradecida por poder ver a mis tres hijos en octubre, noviembre y diciembre. Esto no ha ocurrido en mi vida por cerca de una década. Mi gratitud viene del interior y tú la puedes ver en mi rostro, en la comida que preparo para mi familia, en como camino etc. Esencialmente, la gratitud consiste de una disposición interior, de un corazón agradecido, pero se manifiesta de alguna forma. Démosle muestras de **gratitud**, y presentémosle ofrendas! ¡Anunciemos entre gritos de alegría las maravillas que ha hecho! Salmo 107:22  
Arlene from Indiana

¡Cómo poder contar las maravillas y bendiciones de parte de Dios para nuestras vidas! Nuestro Dios, en su infinita misericordia, nos ha llamado a mi esposo y a mí, y nos ha llevado de la mano paso por paso hacia tierra extraña. Hemos podido experimentar cómo el Señor nos abre puertas, nos pone en gracia y nos bendice cuando decidimos hacer su voluntad. ¡Gracias Dios! ¡Qué bueno eres!

Lorna from Indiana

Iglesia Cristiana Hispana  
(Discípulos de Cristo) del Norte  
de Orlando



## AWAKE! AWAKE! Updates

- Are you looking for information about "Awake! Awake!" the 2010 Quadrennial Assembly?
- Would you like to be in on the latest information?
- Are you ready to register, to select workshops, to apply for scholarships?
- Did you know there is an OFFICIAL Quadrennial Assembly website for all this and more?

The address is [www.quadrennial.org](http://www.quadrennial.org). All of the latest news and information will be posted there as it becomes available. Check it out!

- Registration and workshop selection are now available at [www.quadrennial.org](http://www.quadrennial.org).
- If you register, either online or on paper, by January 1, 2010, your name will be entered in a drawing for a

**FREE ROOM** at the Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons.

- The scholarship applications are now online. You are more than welcome to begin working on the scholarships application before or after you register for QA.
- Are you on Facebook? If so, you may want to join "Awake! Awake! QA 2010" the Facebook group.
- Information about the Stewards & Team Leaders Program is available from your regional office.





**Office of Disciples Women**

A ministry of  
Disciples Home Missions

130 E Washington St  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(888) 346-2631  
odw@dhm.disciples.org



**International Disciples Women's  
Ministries  
2006-2010 Executive Committee**

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Ann Pickett-Parker, Great River Region	Vice President
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Sheila Spencer,	ODW Program Staff and Merger Staff
Gloria Hernandez,	ODW Program Staff and QA Coordinator

**Grow as a Disciples Woman  
at [www.discipleswomen.org](http://www.discipleswomen.org)**

**Do You . . . ?**



- . . .want to let women all around the denomination know what is happening in your church or your region?
- . . .have an idea for an article or photos to share?
- . . .have something you would like to see in this newsletter? . .
- . . .have any thoughts or suggestions for the editor?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above, please e-mail us at [odw@dhm.disciples.org](mailto:odw@dhm.disciples.org). We would love to hear from you!!

Thank you for reading our newsletter. Please forward to your network. If not already on our e-mail list send us your name and e-mail address. Please put "Voices" in the subject line of your e-mail to [odw@dhm.disciples.org](mailto:odw@dhm.disciples.org).

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**Save These Dates !**

**November 8 to 22, 2009**—Woman-to-Woman Worldwide in Venezuela and Colombia (*Subscribe to Just Women to learn more about this trip.*)

**January 1, 2010**—Deadline to enter drawing for a FREE room at QA 2010 (*See page 5 for more information.*)

**June 23 to 27, 2010**—Quadrennial Assembly 2010, Greensboro, N.C. (*Hurry & register so you don't miss your chance for 2010.*)

*You won't have another chance to experience this event until 2014.)*



## It's O.K. to be Different by Marilyn Moffett

Jessie Trout, former executive of the Department of Church Women, brought a message via videotape to the International Christian Women's Fellowship in its January 1989 meeting, as it began its 40th anniversary. Jessie, called the "mother" of CWF, dreamed of bringing together into one organization the many diverse, and sometimes competitive women's organizations within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She called together seventy-five women in January 1949 who prayerfully and carefully developed the FLEXIBLE structure which was named Christian Women's Fellowship - CWF.

Jessie explained that the new organization was to be *INCLUSIVE* of all women of the church.

The two words *FLEXIBLE* and *INCLUSIVE* represent two important concepts of CWF-sometimes overlooked or forgotten in the forty year history of the organization. Many congregational CWFs have said in actions and attitude if not in words, "You have to be like us to be a part of our organization". But Miss Trout and the developers of CWF were saying, in essence, "It's O.K to be different!"

Women today are different in many ways than they were forty or fifty years ago but their basic needs are the same. For example our grandmothers used iceboxes, gas stoves which stood on tall legs and wire whisks as they provided good and nutritious meals for their families. Women today use frost-free refrigerators, microwave ovens and food processors to achieve the same purpose. The goal is the same but the methods and the understanding of nutrition are different. But each is O.K for its time.

Similarly, women's faith in the one, living God is the same today as it was for their grandmothers but the journey and the results of the faith may be very different. And that too is O.K

Women today speak of their need for support from other women. Business women tell us they want an opportunity to be with other business women in the context of the church. Some say they can talk about things in a women's group within the church that they cannot discuss at work where they are in competition with the other women around them.

Women are concerned about their spiritual lives and want help in their faith journey. Others want to be involved in a group within the church which is action oriented, reaching out in ministry to persons in need in the community and/or the world.

Many CWFs are finding ways to say to women with words, actions and attitudes, in non-matriarchal ways, "We want to help you find what you need and it's O.K if that is something different from us."

The imagination and creativity of CWF women is found through "different" situations which meet the needs of their women.

Due to busy schedules a group of employed women decided to have two overnight retreats a year. They spend Friday and Saturday together, twice a year, with in-depth study and spiritual awakening and feel the support of one another in the interim.

A group of young mothers discovered that Saturday morning was the best time for them to be together. They gather in a home one Saturday morning a month. They drop their children at the church where CWF women care for them.

One group of employed women found they did not like to go home, fix dinner and go back out for a meeting. Thus the CWF women prepare their dinners. Another group discovered they all like to eat out so they go to a restaurant for their dinners and meetings.

One group which began as an aerobics class now studies together.

A CWF woman invited seven women who were not involved to dinner in her home one night, so they could have some time together. She said nothing about CWF or organizing into a group. The women had such a good time they started a group. They now have 22 in the group, are still meeting for dinner in the concerned woman's home. They are involved in the community, have decided to give to outreach through CWF and now think of themselves as a part of CWF, as indeed they are.

The common ingredient of all of these examples and many more is a woman or women who care about others enough to seek out the uninvolved and with them discover what is needed and how the need can be met. Women who are *FLEXIBLE* and who know the value of *INCLUSIVENESS* attract others.

*You are invited to discover such flexibility in yourselves and to find ways to provide ministry.*

*Remember, it's O.K to be different!!*

Originally published in "GuidePosts" 1989, page 4.